

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR SAM E. MANN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SAINT MARK UNION CHURCH AND UNITED INNER CITY SERVICES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Rev. Doctor Samuel E. Mann, an individual who has dedicated his life to helping the underserved in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, the District that I am honored to represent. This weekend, Reverend Mann is retiring, after 40 years as Pastor Administrator of St. Mark Union Church and executive director of United Inner City Services. In that capacity, he oversaw a budget of \$1.5 million annually, a sixty-two member staff and programs that included: child and family development, social services, and community development and street organizations and violence prevention.

He is a native of Eufaula, Alabama and a graduate of Birmingham Southern College, BA; Duke Divinity School, M. Div., and St. Paul School of Theology, D. Min. He is married to Dr. Beverly J. Brown, and is the father of three children and grandfather of seven.

Remarkably, Rev. Mann was a local preacher at the age of 15 years old at the First Methodist Church of Eufaula, Alabama; he was later the Associate Pastor of St. John United Methodist Church of Kansas City, Missouri, and sometime later, the Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Peculiar, MO, and Director of the Young Adult Projects, Inc. Rev. Mann was dismissed from both churches because of his views on race and peace.

As a long-time civil rights activist, Rev. Mann marched in numerous demonstrations, including the march for the garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee, the march against the war in Vietnam, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was part of the U.S. delegation that visited with South Africa ANC leader Dr. Nelson Mandela shortly after his release from prison. Dr. Mann has also been jailed on several occasions for his participation in these activities. He served as a key participant in the national effort to respond to the burning of black churches in America. He has traveled to Nicaragua and China for various humanitarian efforts.

Rev. Mann was instrumental in the formation of Operation Break and Build, a street outreach organization that evolved out of the Urban Peace and Justice Summit in 1994. Its purpose was to assist street organizations, gangs, with transforming their lives via crisis intervention, education, economic development, addressing women's issues, and criminal justice.

He has been the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Harold Holiday Award; the John M. Swomley Human Rights Award, the Elder Statesmen of Kansas City award, the MO Jazz award, the Sam Eason Award presented by Niles Home; the Black Archives of Mid-America award; the Beta Omega PSI PHI Fraternity Inc.'s Citizen of the Year Award; and many, many more. He is co-founder of the project "Reframing the Dialogue on Race in America." Through this national project, he attempts to address the problem of

race by focusing on the issues of white supremacy and white privilege. Through training, he seeks to inspire ministries to address racism in their congregations.

His most recent project was the building of the \$4 million child care center, the St. Mark Child & Family Development Center, located at 2008 E. 12th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. St. Mark's is a state of the art child care facility that annually serves approximately 225 low-income families through its early childhood education program, before- and after-school program, and summer camp. Nearly 100 percent of the children are African American, with many living in single parent households in one of Kansas City, Missouri's poorest neighborhoods.

Rev. Mann is presently a leader working in concert with other agencies in making Kansas City a Zone Seven site to provide additional services in the urban core for the education of children. I am proud of the federal funding I helped secure for St. Mark.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege for me to recognize my friend, and colleague, the Reverend Doctor Sam Mann for his efforts to improve the education and quality of life in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. It is with great pride that we honor Reverend Doctor Mann today for his commitment to the residents of Missouri. On behalf of the people of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish this thunderous preacher and fearless prophet a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN INGLEWOOD, CA

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Highland Elementary School in Inglewood, California, located in my district. Highland was recently named a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education, a coveted award recognizing high-performing and improving schools across our country. This year, Highland shares this distinction with 304 other schools among the thousands of schools in the United States.

Highland and its teachers, administrators, staff, students, parents and community members have really been on a roll. In addition to the Blue Ribbon award, the school was also named a California Distinguished School, and Highland is a two-time Title One Academic Achievement School and California Business School of Excellence.

I am very appreciative of the efforts by this Congress and this Administration to focus on education and the future of our young students. We must remain committed to improving schools and providing opportunity for all Americans to learn.

In my district, like many communities in urban America, test scores are below average, buildings are in disrepair, and graduation rates are too low.

I was so encouraged to hear about Highland's honor because one of the two ways to qualify for the Blue Ribbon award is by having schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improve student performance to high levels.

Improving test scores early on is crucial to getting kids on the right path to a solid education and key to securing critical resources that will help our schools turn around.

I want to particularly honor Highland principal Susan Ippongi and Inglewood Unified School District superintendent Gary McHenry for their leadership and their dedication to schoolchildren in Inglewood.

I am looking forward to meeting them in November when representatives from the Blue Ribbon schools come to Washington to be formally recognized for their achievements.

I am very proud of Highland's ability to excel over adversity, and particularly proud of the young boys and girls who are studying hard for a bright future. They are giving Highland Elementary School, our community, our city and our country a good name.

HONORING ZOILA A. QUIÑONES

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor one of south Florida's finest community leaders, Zoila A. Quiñones.

Zoila was born in the city of Cabana, Peru and completed her studies at the prestigious Colegio Nacional Mercedes Cabello in Lima, Peru and graduated as a Commercial Accountant. She then went on to work at one of Peru's finest engineering and architecture firms, Graña y Montero, S.A., for 26 years.

In 1986, Zoila came to the United States from her native Peru to join her mother and brother in Miami, Florida. She started a career in the cargo industry and eventually founded her own company, Cabana International Corporation. She also began her activism within the Peruvian American community of south Florida and is today one of its most influential leaders. She is involved with various civic and business groups including the Peruvian American Coalition, the Chamber of Commerce of Florida, the Ancashina Association and the Peruvian Civic Unity.

For nearly 23 years, Zoila has also taken an active role in the democratic process by educating policymakers at all levels of government about issues important in the Peruvian American community, working to ensure that the United States and Peru strengthen diplomatic ties, and helping shape legislation and policy towards Latin America. She has also been instrumental in fighting for small businesses, advancing economic growth in the United States and working towards free trade with Peru.

Zoila has earned the respect and trust of many in our community, dedicating herself to advancing the needs of the Hispanic community in the United States. I ask that you join me in honoring and thanking my good friend Zoila A. Quiñones, a true leader who loves and values freedom and works so that others may enjoy it.

THANKING TAEKWONDO GRAND MASTER JHOON RHEE FOR HIS 45 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. ENI F.H. FALDOMAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FALDOMAEGA. Madam Speaker, Grand Master Jhoon Rhee is a man of rare character. An immigrant from South Korea who came to the United States in the 1950s, later to be known as the "Father of American Taekwondo," he has become an American symbol of patriotism, service, and excellence.

Today, we celebrate Grand Master Rhee's 45 years of service sharing his wisdom, experience, and knowledge as a Taekwondo instructor with over 350 members of Congress. Yet beyond the contributions he has made to members of Congress for almost half a century, Grand Master Rhee has served this country through countless acts of service. Thought time does not permit me to share them all, please allow me to share some of the highlights today and give due honor to a man who truly makes me proud to be an American.

Born on January 7, 1932 in South Korea during the period of Japanese occupation, Mr. Rhee began training in the martial arts at the age of 13. Serving as an officer in the Korean War, Rhee fought alongside American soldiers, where he gained a deep appreciation for the country that he now calls home.

Rhee immigrated to the United States in 1956, introducing Taekwondo to the Nation. A World-renowned 10th Degree Black Belt, he has instructed and inspired students around the world. In addition to the over 350 members of Congress he has instructed over the past 45 years, Grand Master Rhee has also shared his wisdom and knowledge with the likes of Muhammad Ali, Jack Anderson, George Allen Sr., Bob Livingston, Tony Robbins, and Jack Valenti.

Yet his service does not end here. In 1983, Mr. Rhee—a symbol of patriotism—served as National Chairman of the July 4th, 1983 Nation's Birthday Celebration. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the National Council on Vocational Education, where he created National Teacher Appreciation Day—a day of honor for our Nation's educators which was signed by President Ronald Reagan on October 16, 1986, and continues today.

From 1988 to 1991, he served as President George H.W. Bush's appointment as Special Advisor to the President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports, and on March 17, 1992 he was selected as the President's 721st "Daily Point of Light"—an award that honors individuals and volunteer groups around the country who are helping to meet critical needs in their communities.

In 1999, Rhee received the American Immigrants Achievement Award and the National Association of Professional Martial Arts, NAPMA, Life Time Achievement Award, and in 2000, he became the only Korean-American named by the National Immigrant Forum and the Immigration and Naturalization Services as one of the 203 most recognized immigrants in the country, along with Albert Einstein, Alexander Graham Bell and 200 others. Rhee was also inducted into the Taekwondo Hall of

Fame in 2007 as both the "Pioneer of American Taekwondo" and the "Pioneer of Taekwon-Do in Russia." He currently has over 60 affiliated Tae Kwon Do studios in the U.S. and 65 in the former Soviet Union.

It takes but a moment in Grand Master Rhee's presence to sense his honor for this country and to see that he truly exemplifies the American spirit. He is a living reminder of the goodness of this nation to the U.S. and the world. I must echo my dear friend, Congressman Ike Skelton, who once said, "I might say Master Jhoon Rhee has become a national treasure."

But what better way to gain a deeper sense of this man's rare patriotism and love for America, than in his own words. In a recent statement shared with my office, Grand Master Rhee wrote, "I fought the Korean War side by side with American soldiers, who came to defend a country they never heard of, people they never knew. This is why I wanted to do something for what America had done for my motherland, Korea, with what I can do the best, TKD [Taekwondo]. The sense of my gratitude for America gave me the energy to get up 5 AM, 3 mornings a week for the last 45 years to teach over 350 members of U.S. Congress, as my volunteer service; I will give 5 more years to make it five decades of my service."

Reflecting on the strength of this nation, Grand Master Rhee stated, "I became curious what made America so great. In my sincere search for the roots of America's strength, I found the noblest mission statement ever written by any country in history. American Founding Fathers wrote the 'Mission Statement of America' to place upon America the responsibility of serving as the vanguard nation for the moral and political Freedom of all mankind, not just for American people. No wonder, why Alexis De Tocqueville, a French Juror in 1831, wrote: 'America is great because She is good; if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.'"

Today I ask my fellow members of Congress to honor a man whose character, patriotism, and heart of service calls for our sincere respect and gratitude. Grand Master Rhee, today I celebrate and thank you for your 45 years of service to the members of this Chamber and the Senate. More importantly, I thank you for your example to the citizens of this Nation—for increasing the hope within each of us, for reminding us of the beauty and strength of our nation, and for inspiring individuals and groups of every walk of life to continually press towards the call to take it higher and make it better.

TRIBUTE TO GENE YEAGER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Ernest Eugene "Gene" Yeager, a successful businessman, philanthropist, outstanding community member and close personal friend of mine. On Sunday, September 5, 2010, Gene passed away at the age of 85. Although Gene has passed on from this life, he leaves a lasting legacy of generosity and accomplishment that will never be forgotten.

More than 700 people gathered to pay tribute to Gene at the California Baptist University quad, just behind the center that bears his name. The two-hour service brought together people throughout the community that Gene touched during his life, including industry leaders, former employees, friends and family members. Gene's life tells the tale of a man who turned his business empire into a conduit for blessing the lives of people around him.

Gene Yeager was born in Riverside in 1924. He graduated from Poly High School in 1942 and studied engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy. After World War II ended, he returned to Berkeley, where he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Together with his two brothers, Richard and Jacques, they went to work for their father, Ernest Louis Yeager, who founded E.L. Yeager Construction Company in Riverside in 1919. Gene ran the public works side of the operations business which worked on projects to improve major freeways, dams and bridges. The brothers turned the business into one of the largest public works and private construction companies in the United States, and one that changed the landscape of Southern California.

With Gene at the head, the Yeager Company rebuilt two bridges that collapsed in the 1994 Northridge earthquake, built the Highway 91/Interstate 15 interchange in Corona, built the dam at Lake Perris and helped erect the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana.

After Richard was killed in a traffic accident in 1979, Gene and Jacques continued to run the company until 1995, when they sold it to a group of senior managers. In 2002, the business was sold to Skanska, the Swedish construction giant.

Through the years, Gene had become a leader and an industry icon. He is remembered just as fondly by his construction workers as he is with the people at Skanska, because of his intense work ethic and generous heart.

After retiring in 1995, Gene set about traveling the world with his wife, spending time with his family and generously making donations to worthy causes in the Riverside area, including a \$1 million endowment to fund environmental research and scholarships at the University of California at Riverside.

In fact, his charitable work earned him "guardian angel" status in Riverside. Everyone that knew Gene, knew that he gave from the heart, and did so without any desire for recognition.

In addition to his wife, Billie, Mr. Yeager is survived by sons Ken, of San Jose, and Tom, of Riverside; daughters Beth, of Norco, and Louise, of Newport Beach; stepchildren Terri, of Riverside, and Doug Moore, of Rancho Cucamonga; brother Jacques, of Riverside; nephew Jacques Jr., of Riverside; and 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

On behalf of all those who knew him, it is an honor to offer these remarks as a tribute to the life and legacy of my friend Gene Yeager. His life and presence will be sorely missed and I extend my condolences to his dear family and friends.